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The most important chapter among the seven which make up Miss Franc's book is that which deals with Ibsen's influence upon the contemporary English drama. It exhibits study and thoughtful deduction. Miss Franc rightly finds that Pinero, Jones, Shaw and Galsworthy stand in the central stream of Ibsen's influence, although the last-named receives that influence as filtered through Hauptmann. She finds also that Ibsen "was a dramatic reformer who ventilated the theatre with draughts of fresh thought. He swept from the stage the false sentimentality and moral shams that had reigned there." "The modern social drama was born with Ibsen." He "brought to the English stage a spirit of iconoclasm, the use of realism, symbolism, the drama of social ideas and an unexcelled technique." For ourselves, we should say that Ibsen's work shows a really extraordinary power to equilibrate the three prime interests of modern drama, which we should designate as subjectivism, symbolism (especially, of course, in his riper plays), and socialism (in the sense of a fresh preoccupation with questions of social reform). Miss Franc rather over-estimates, we think, his influence, considerable as it was, upon the Irish dramatic revival.

Regrettable slips in syntax, style and even spelling occur on pages 31, 33, 41, 50, 74, etc. Chapter Six, dealing with "Parodies and Sequels", appears for the most part critically superfluous.

G. H. C.

AMERICA AND THE NEW ERA. A Symposium on Social Reconstruction. Edited by Elisha M. Friedman. New York: E. P. Dutton and Company. 1920. Pp. xxx, 500.

The number of scientifically written books on reconstruction now appearing in our country is an encouraging sign to those of us who are asking ourselves whether the public spirit, the national thrift and the administrative efficiency pushed forward and developed in our midst by the World War, will continue, in some measure at least, to animate our civic body.

Nowhere does mere caste count for less than with us. Nowhere has social—and not merely political—democracy been pushed so far. Yet powerfully organized unions, both of capitalists and of workingmen, threaten the welfare of the rest of

us as nowhere else in the world, for nowhere else have these, and other group interests, been allowed so free a field to tyrannize over collective interests. Again, nowhere do government and administration lag farther behind the new and recognized needs of society. We have changed from a predominantly agricultural and sparsely settled community, with abounding natural resources, to a predominantly industrial and urban community, in which our national heritage has been largely dissipated, or has passed without compensation into private hands. Yet we have neither a responsible (or parliamentary) form of government, nor a budget system, nor an adequate civil service, nor a land policy, and, in these respects, we are one of the most backward peoples on earth.

These conditions, and the many sociological, administrative, educational and hygienic questions raised by them, are discussed by Mr. Friedman and his collaborators in the series of twenty-eight essays which constitute the present volume, itself a sequel to an earlier symposium on the economic and financial aspects of reconstruction, also edited by Mr. Friedman.

Obviously, with so many contributors—there are twenty-seven, not counting the editor himself—the chapters are of unequal merit. Yet, as a whole, this book will give the reader a saner, clearer and more hopeful outlook on American social and political life and will leave him much the better for the reading.

The work comprises five divisions. To the first, "Perspectives, Social and Political", Herbert Hoover contributes a striking "Foreword", while the editor himself surveys the field to be covered and defines the problems. In the second part, "Social Progress *versus* Cycles of Change", Professor Warner Fite has a most suggestive essay on "Individualism in the New Social Order". In the third part, "Some Economic Aspects of Social Problems", the most valuable contributions are perhaps that of the veteran economist, Richard T. Ely, on "An American Land Policy", and that of Frederic C. Howe on "The Immigrant and America". In the fourth part, "The New Nationalism", Dr. Edward A. Fitzpatrick writes an impressive and warning monograph on "Social Progress and Political Administration", in which he points out that in America we train

men for all callings except the public service. The fifth part, "The Conservation of Human Resources", is the most valuable portion of the book, not only because all the contributions are of high merit and interesting *per se*, but also because this field is least known to the majority of readers, comprising as it does heredity, eugenics, hygiene (public and industrial), child-study, recreation, etc.

The book is furnished with a very full analytical table of contents and a good index.

S. L. WARE.

ENGLISH LITERATURE. By John Louis Haney. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Howe. 1920. Pp. xii, 452.

This attractively printed and illustrated textbook is intended for the use of high-school pupils. Although without distinction of style, it is written in a pleasant, rather loose manner that tries to avoid tedium. The introduction—"What is Literature?"—is too brief to be very useful and does not reach sufficiently definite conclusions. The organization of the treatment is good, and balance is, in general, maintained, but too many of the judgments are unpleasantly positive or critically unsound, especially in the case of the character of Bacon, the discussion of Shakespeare's central tragedies, the appraisal of the poetry of Shelley, Tennyson and Browning; and particularly the paragraphs on several of the contemporary poets and novelists.

Touching George Eliot, one is puzzled by the meaning of this comment on page 371:—

"Much of her contemporary fame was due to the fact that after the death of Thackeray and Dickens she was quite properly regarded as the leading living novelist."

And why, we may ask, is George Eliot, on the one hand, condemned for "permitting a pessimistic strain to pervade most of her work", and thus inviting "the comparative neglect from which she now suffers", while on the other hand, although—

"Mr. Hardy is a stern realist and in his novels looks upon life with a pessimism that is well-nigh hopeless, yet he is much admired for the setting he has given to his tragic tales.